



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING** **DECEMBER 8, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:13 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Carl Moore

Absent

James Cragin

Others Present

Lee Millen, Commission Services
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

Excused

Michael Russell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2004

This item was deferred to the December 15, 2004 agenda

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported that she will contact an associate who will provide more information on the difficulties with the Affirmative Action and O'Connor Group Homes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$448.91.

STAFF REPORT

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Moore gave a brief overview of the Auditor-Controller's Group Home Program Monitoring Report for the HV Group Homes; these were rated satisfactory with minor facility repairs remaining to be completed.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Westside Children's Group Home – 112 #1

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility on December 7th and gave a rating of **Needs Improvement**. Areas of minor concern: house rules and residents' chores were not posted; smoke detectors need batteries; and fire extinguisher needs recharging.

Westside Children's Group Home – 112 #2

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility on December 7th and found that no one was at home; no inspection was conducted.

Fred Jefferson Memorial Home – 46 #3

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility on December 2nd and gave a rating of **Needs Improvement**. Areas of concern: no fire drills have been conducted since September 4th; dishes are chipped and need replacing; bath tub needs cleaning; quick re-lease window bars in bedroom #2 don't lock; smoke detector in kitchen not working; and Commissioners advised facility staff to have fire extinguishers encased because residents continue to discharge them.

The Sycamores/Las Flores Group Home – 105 #1

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on December 2nd and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

The Sycamores/Main Campus – 104 #2

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on December 6th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Arrowhead Emancipation Program/Altadena Drive – 2 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on December 2nd and found that no one was at home; no inspection was conducted.

Tana Group Home I – 102 #3

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on December 7th and gave a rating of **Unsatisfactory**. Areas of concern: the interior, exterior and grounds are not maintained; kitchen stove-top and oven were dirty; inadequate supply of dishes and utensils; posted menu does not match food on hand; no mattress pads or covers for beds; need age appropriate pictures on bedroom walls; odors coming from upstairs bedrooms; scratches on bedroom walls and furniture; clothing/closets need organizing; quick release window bars in bedroom #2 need repair; downstairs bath tub is very dirty; no key to the computer/study room could be located; no disaster drills are performed and no records are available; house rules and residents' chores are not listed; State and Federally mandated notices were outdated by more than 20 years; the station wagon needs new tires; fire extinguisher needs recharging; banister needs painting; floor heater broken and should be removed; recreational equipment needed for back yard; washer and dryer exposed to the elements in back yard and poses a safety hazard; need documentation to show residents' participation in group therapy; documentation and update of Needs and Services Plans needed; provide residents with Life Books; and common rooms/bedrooms need personalized pictures and knick knacks to suit each resident's taste. **A re-inspection is scheduled in one month.**

Tana Group Home II – 103 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on December 3rd and gave a rating of **Unsatisfactory**. Areas of concern: kitchen sink was leaking; kitchen floor is rotted and needs replacing; oven was very dirty with missing knobs; light bulb was missing from kitchen light fixture; kitchen tile needs to be replaced; disaster drills are not conducted and no records are available; bedroom furniture needs repair and graffiti removed; broken window in bedroom #3; no mattress pads on beds in bedroom #3;

broken fire alarm in bedroom #2; closet door off hinges in bedroom #1; bedroom carpet needs to be repaired or replaced; bath tub needs re-caulking; toilet seat broken; water heater door is bent; floor heater vents need to be cleaned and painted; first aid kit was missing; smoke detectors need batteries; State and Federally mandated notices were outdated by more than 20 years; back and side yards need to be cleared of trash and junk car needs to be removed; group therapy sessions inadequately documented in case files; Needs and Services Plan needs to be updated; front tires on van need to be replaced and aligned; and Life Books need to be provided for residents' use.

Commissioners expressed concern that improvements to the Tana Group Home facilities required by the Auditor-Controller's October 25th Group Home Program Monitoring Report have not been completed; and unsatisfactory conditions were found at these facilities which were not reflected in the Auditor's Monitoring Report. Commissioners agreed that juveniles are at risk in these facilities and that they are apparently just being "warehoused." The Commission's Inspection Reports for these facilities was faxed to all applicable departments. **A re-inspection is scheduled in one month.**

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano assigned inspection duties to Commissioners for the following week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates
Commission Staff